

Remarks/Arguments

Claims 1-4, 7-27, 29-44, 49 and 50 are pending in the application. We note that claims 45-48 were withdrawn due to the restriction requirement presented in Paper No. 3. The election of Group I claims with traverse was acknowledged by the Examiner in Paper No. 5. Therefore, the claims pending in the currently application should be noted on page 1 of the Office Action as claims 1-44, 49 and 50.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner is thanked for indicating claims 23, 49 and 50 are allowed.

The Examiner has also indicated that claims 6-9, 10-12, 19-21, 28-31, 32-34, 40 and 41 were allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. It is asserted that the claims have been so amended. The amendment of independent claims 1 and 24 necessitated the cancellation of claims 5, 6 and 28. As the remaining claims are dependent directly or indirectly from the allowable amended claims, they too should now be allowable.

35 U.S.C. § 103


The Examiner had rejected certain of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a). The amendments to the claims render this rejection *moot*.

Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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